

## LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF P. P. HALL.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 346.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. TAPPAN, from the Committee on Claims, made the following

### REPORT.

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the legal representatives of P. P. Hall, deceased, "asking compensation for taking the census in California," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:*

That P. P. Hall was an assistant marshal in taking the 7th census in California, but his returns never reached the Census Office here, they having been destroyed by fire in the conflagration at San Francisco on the 3d day of May, 1851. Soon afterwards Mr. Hall died, and his heirs applied to the Interior Department for compensation for his services. The department replied that there was "no authority to make compensation for returns lost or destroyed, therefore the heirs must apply to Congress for relief." In another letter, dated February 2, 1860, Secretary Thompson says: "The only data in possession of the department whereby to form an estimate of the amount of his services consists of his deposition on oath made subsequently to the loss of his returns. As there is no reason to suppose that this deposition does not fairly represent the amount of labor performed, I have directed an estimate to be made therefrom of what Mr. Hall would have been legally entitled to upon the same basis of payment made to the other assistants. The result of this examination would make it appear that Mr. Hall would have been entitled to about \$400 addition." Your committee, therefore, report a bill for the said sum, and recommend its passage.

